

associated with each occupation in 1950. The score was derived by using median income and education levels for men in 1950 to predict prestige from a 1947 survey.<sup>7</sup>

The major problem that was encountered in assigning OCCSCORES and SEI scores to the directory data was matching directory occupations with 1950 occupations. For example, some occupations in the directory had different names than their 1950 counterparts. In the city directory, an individual may have listed their occupation as a stevedore; however, in 1950 this person would be considered a longshoreman. Likewise, a drayman in 1897 would be a deliveryman in 1950. In order to overcome these problems, historical research was conducted in order to get descriptions of some occupations.<sup>8</sup> Caution was taken to insure that the same conversions were made across races. So that, in the event that a directory occupation is not matched perfectly with its 1950 occupation, discrepancies would not heavily bias results using the directory data since the error would be made for both black and white listings. It should be noted that the majority of the occupations were easy to match.

The methodology used in this study is straightforward. Because of the limitations of the directory data, the analysis is limited to detailed summary statistics from the various directories. This includes tabulating the occupational variables, means tests, and tracking the movement of specific groups of individuals and businesses across directory waves.

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<sup>7</sup> The interested reader can get detailed information on the variable construction process at [www.ipums.org/usa.pwork/seia.html](http://www.ipums.org/usa.pwork/seia.html). The description of this variable is taken from this source.

<sup>8</sup> The authors would like to thank LeRae Umfleet, at the North Carolina State Archives for her help cleaning the directory data.